RESEARCH PLAN PROPOSAL

An Analysis of Rural Development Schemes in Rajasthan with special reference to Bundi District

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INTRODUCTION

Rural development is a strategy designed to improve the economic and social life of a specific group of people, the rural poor. Rural development generally refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic welfare of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. In India, majority of population reside in rural areas, which is reflected in a high rural urban ratio. Taking this into consideration, Government of India has been implementing numerous rural development programmes, time and again, for the welfare of rural communities.

In India, with 75 per cent of the rural population living below poverty line and 74 per cent unemployed population hailing from rural India, poverty and unemployment continue to be the major economic problems, despite economic growth (Sanyal, 2011). After the inception of independence, India realized the urgent importance of developing the villages and a vast majority of toiling millions who inhabit them. Hence, after independence, a good number of programmes for rural development have been initiated by the Government of India.

The study will cover various Central, State and the Joint effort schemes which are presently being run in the various blocks and gram panchayats of Bundi District. The schemes which are taken into consideration are as follows:

S. NO	NAME OF THE SCHEMES	GOVERNMENT
1	MGNREGA	Centre + State
2	Indira Awas Yojna	Cente + State
3	National Livelihood Mission (AAJEVIKA)	Centre + State
4	Watershed Yojna	Centre
5	NBA (Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan)	Centre

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A lot of literature related to the role of various rural development schemes in achieving livelihood security and promoting sustainable development, based on empirical studies, is available. These studies depict that the schemes have shown mixed results, so far, in rural India. A review of some of the recent important studies related to the performance assessment of such schemes across the country is done.

Studies based on the opinion of eminent persons, awareness level of the community and institutional arrangements made in different states for implementation of rural development schemes, performance of such schemes in different states, challenges in implementation, provision of worksite facilities, effectiveness of social audits, assessment of the work taken up, impact of such schemes on the lives of the poor, changing migration pattern, and funds, are reviewed and presented below in a chronological order.

The review of literature helped me in understanding the planning, implementation and monitoring processes of various rural development schemes and their related features.

Singh & Pundir (2000) in their study discussed that with more than 700 million of its people living in rural areas and with its rural sector contributing to about 29 percent of the gross domestic product at factor cost at 1993-94 prices, no strategy of socio-economic development of India that neglects the rural people and the rural areas can be successful. Rural development is, therefore, a *sine qua non* of overall development in India. Rural development is influenced by a multitude of factors such as natural resources, human resources, technology, and institutions and organisations including co-operatives. A co-operative is a form of organisation that is widely prevalent in developing countries including India that has great potential as an instrument of rural development. India can rightly claim to have the largest network of co-operatives in the world. They occupy an important place in India‘s rural economy in terms of their coverage of rural population and their share in the total supply of agricultural inputs including credit and contribute significantly to rural development.

Nayak *et.al.,(2002)* conceived a wider study on the diversification of rural livelihoods in India. Briefly, the wider study aims to identify what policy initiatives might better support the poor in their search for enhanced livelihoods. The Government of India currently commits some Rs250 billion (£3.5 billion) to a number of poverty eradication schemes, projects and programmes in support of the livelihoods of the poor. The study provides the main financial dimensions of these schemes, indicating the changing trends. A majority of financial provisions under these schemes are allocated to rural areas. These,

therefore provide an important starting point in any effort to identify – as the wider study seeks to – what role can government policy in future play in enhancing the livelihoods of the poor.

Kannan (2005) in his study viewed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act a much needed developmental perspective that seeks to enhance human development by inclusion of the rural poor. He opined that the goal of investing in human capital can be completed through National Rural Employment Guarantee Act through projects like construction of schools, health centres at local level, repair of existing buildings. This will be the best way to utilize the unutilized potential in rural areas.

Chakraborty (2006) has discussed the spatial dimensions and fiscal implications of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. She carried out a preliminary appraisal based on secondary data and explained that National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has no problems of budget. Its allocation is only marginally higher than what was spent in the past by the government on various rural employment programmes. It is a demand-driven scheme and it has fallen far short of meeting the demand in some states. The fund utilization ratio also varies widely across states. Her paper is based on the state by state employment demand-supply data and the use of funds released under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act by the central government. She concluded that the existing institutional arrangement is not sufficient enough in poorer states to implement National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in an effective manner. There is an urgent need for both vertical and horizontal coordination across levels of

governments within the states.

Khera (2006) in her study has discussed the Group Measurement of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act work. Her study was conducted in Jalore district of Rajasthan. She reported that according to official data in Rajasthan, the number of people employed in relief works soared from 4.08 lakh in 2000-01 to 9.75 lakh in 2002-03. In the baseline survey, about half of the households reported that some members of family have migrated during the summer month in 2001. She witnessed an example of extreme low productivity in Chohtan Block of Barmer District, at a worksite where approximately 250 workers were employed, but very few were actually working at the time of her visit. She concluded that the public works offer relatively predictable employment opportunities and are effective in slowing down the rural-urban migration.

Dreze & Lal (2007) have discussed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in Rajasthan and have come to the conclusion that Rajasthan comes first in terms of employment generation per rural household under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. In 2006-07, the average rural household in Rajasthan's six "NREGA Districts" worked for as many as 77 days under this programme, earning nearly Rs.4, 000 in the process. This is an unprecedented achievement in the history of social security in India. They discussed that disadvantaged sections of the population are the main gainers. The share of women in National Rural Employment Guarantee Act employment is around two-thirds in Rajasthan, and that of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households is as high as 80 per cent. Thus,

the Act contributes to social equity and economic redistribution.

Jaswal & Mistry (2007) in their paper have discussed the first stage of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act implementation. For this, ten districts have been chosen, five from Gujarat, two from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and one from Maharashtra. The objective behind their study is to look at the financial and economic aspects of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. They studied the implications for the rural economy as a result of the minimum wage and employment instituted by the Act. Besides this, the effectiveness in implementation of the scheme was studied. They concluded that, the Employment Guarantee Schemes are already making a difference in the lives of the people, but still a long way remained to achieve. There are some issues in terms of the benefits to be drawn from the assets created by the scheme. Also, the menial nature and the lack of encouragement for both skilled labour and further training is something that is of concern in the long run. Implementation issues like issuance of job-cards on time is also a concern. Facilities for workers would also have to be improved over time.

Khan & Saluja (2007) through their paper discussed the direct and the indirect effects of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on employment generation and poverty reduction. For this, a detailed survey was done in a poor agricultural village with 400 households, nearly 2500 people. The survey recorded income and expenditure levels by type of household including large, small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour etc. The survey also recorded production

activities undertaken by the inhabitants. Their village study reveals that most people have no access to the scheme. People wanted a more proactive role of the panchayat, in deciding the infrastructure to be constructed. Almost everyone wanted more work from the scheme and better facilities at the work place. There is enough evidence of fudging and mismanagement of records. Large number of works relating to water conservation has been taken up. Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan report large women participation in the scheme. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu have conducted work, time and motion studies and accordingly wages have been fixed. Karnataka has copied Andhra Pradesh model but rest of the states continue to pay wages based on old irrigation department norms.

Ghosh (2008) in her article wrote that National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is completely different in conception from earlier government employment schemes since it treats employment as a right and the programme is intended to be demand-driven. Furthermore, the Act and Guidelines anticipate very substantial participation of the local people in the planning and monitoring of the specific schemes, to a degree which has not been at all common. In addition National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is actually far from being an expensive failure; it will prove to be an extremely cost-effective way of increasing employment directly and indirectly, reviving the rural economy, providing basic consumption stability to poor households and improving the bargaining power of rural workers.

Mathur (2008) in his study depicted that National Rural Employment Guarantee Act could act as a great agent of socio-economic up-

liftment and providing livelihood security of poorest of the poor in India if implemented earnestly. The employment and the earning under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act should be treated as additional avenue for such households. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the first tangible commitment to the poor that they can expect to earn a living wage, without loss of dignity.

Dev (2011) through his study has tried to examine the impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on the well-being of children. It is well known that women's well-being and empowerment are crucial for the well-being of children. Therefore, this study also examines the impact of the scheme on women. He tries to present the evidence based on empirical studies in the literature relating to the impact of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme on households, empowerment and well being of women, child labour, health, education, nutrition of children and child care facilities at work sites. In his paper he has made use of some of the in-depth studies on various States of India. He concluded by saying that National Rural Employment Guarantee Schemes is expected to help reduce chronic poverty, risks and vulnerabilities of households particularly the poor. It also seems to have positive significant impact on child well being. This will have long term benefits for children in terms of reducing child labour, malnutrition, ill-health and improving literacy levels. There are significant regional variations in the working of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is working much better in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. On the other hand, it is not working well in states like Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar

Pradesh.

Hugar *et.al.*, (2011) through their study have tried to capture the effect of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act by selecting two sets of villages in the Gulbarga district of Karnataka, one which have utilized 75 per cent of allocated funds and the other which have utilized less the 25 per cent of allocated funds under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The study is based on primary data obtained from 120 sample farmers belonging to five village panchayats. They concluded by saying that the total cost of cultivation in fully-implemented MGNREGA villages has been found higher. The labour productivity of male and female has been noticed lower in fully-implemented MGNREGA villages for all operations in the cropping. The study has also given some suggestions to address the problem of labour scarcity , *gram sabha* is advised to monitor the effective working hours of labour engaged under MGNREGA work , the village *panchayats* are suggested to implement MGNREGA on productive activities like construction of farm ponds, check dams, *nala* bunds and planting of trees on bunds to enhance cropping intensity and productivity.

Tyagi *et.al.*, (2011) has conducted a study in the state of Haryana which investigated the impact of implementation Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in two districts, one agriculturally-advanced (Karnal) and the other agriculturally-backward (Mewat). The impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act within a district has also been studied in terms of income and employment security, migration, debt repayment,

extent of participation in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act works, socio-economic status, etc. by seeking information from 30 participating and 30 non participating households in MGNREGA works in each district. A significant difference has been found in the extent of employment under the Act. Their study has observed that despite being a source of employment, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has not been able to check the migration from the developed region because of higher market wage rates at destinations. Their study has concluded the farmers who have small land and livestock resources are more inclined to work in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and their participation is also more. Thus, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is providing livelihood security to the resource-poor rural people.

Sarkar & Kumar (2011) have conducted a study in the Burdwan district of West Bengal, and examined the socio-economic impact of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act on the rural poor who mainly comprise of small and marginal farmers & agricultural labourers. The study was based on a random sample of 102 respondents (82 beneficiary and 20 non-beneficiary households). It has been found that significant changes have taken place in the socio-economic variables like annual per capita income, monthly per capita food expenditure, annual education expenditure per child, per capita savings, condition of the dwelling houses, access to healthcare facility and possession of other assets or luxury items for those households which are regularly working in the scheme. The study has found that comparatively backward ethnic groups are regularly

participating in larger proportions in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act works, whereas general caste people constitute the larger share in non beneficiaries. The study has revealed that the socio-economic condition of the households regularly working under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme is considerably poor than of the other households in the rural area. Providing only unskilled manual labour work through the scheme does not seem to be a healthy idea in the long-run.

Rizvi (2011) in his study discussed the three basic necessities in life: food, clothing, and shelter. While all three are equally essential, the third one plays the more important role of harnessing a feeling of "belongingness" to the household/family. The physical dwelling unit is not the sole element of housing; equally important is the provision of basic services in the house like potable water, sanitation, drainage, and electricity. It is these services that make a 'house' a 'home'. Accordingly, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, explicitly recognizes the right to a standard of living required for the health and well-being of everyone that includes adequate access to food, clothing, housing, medical care, and the necessary social services (United Nations, 1948). Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reiterates this point by adding the 'right to a continuous improvement in living conditions'. The Declaration of Social Progress adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1969 states, "The provision for all, particularly for persons in low income groups and large families of adequate housing and community services" (Article 10). The Government of

India too has explicitly recognized the need to provide adequate housing to its citizens, particularly poor households residing in rural areas since the onset of its first Five Year Plan in 1951.

Saraswat (2011) in his paper wrote about the ground realities of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act i.e. the largest and most ambitious public works program for poverty alleviation, adopted by Government of India since independence. His paper aims to provide evidence about, longer participation in MGNREGA with increased access to formal credit which is bifurcated into 2 sections , first being the 'Access to Finance survey and second, data on aggregate wage payments in MGNREGA for Andhra Pradesh conducted in period 2006-2009. Findings from the paper provide evidence that longer participation in Public welfare programmes under Employment Guarantee Scheme has enabled economically backward households to borrow more from formal sources. Those subjected to survey accepted that MGNREGA has been successful in establishing an initial link between the financial institutes and financially excluded sections as many of them have started receiving their wages through bank accounts. The study points out that for a program like MGREGA to have sustained positive impact, it should be scrutinized periodically at implementation and budgetary fronts to ensure fairness and efficiency.

Das *et.al.,* (2012) their study takes up the issues related to the awareness about an ambitious welfare programme targeting the rural population of India, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The study was based on a primary survey and finds a

general lack of awareness about the basic guidelines and the legal entitlements among the intended beneficiaries. They conducted the survey in various blocks of Darjeeling & Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal. It has been found that people were often not aware of the basic guidelines regarding wage structures and other legal entitlements. In addition, the villagers were not aware with regard to the types of work which can be undertaken in the scheme. As a concluding remark they mentioned that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a potential tool of empowerment of the rural households in general and the labourers in particular. Evidences from their field survey signify that villagers in northern parts of West Bengal have not been able to get the full benefits of the scheme.

Tiwari & **Upadhyay (2012)** through their work tried to find out the constraints faced by the women beneficiaries under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. They conducted the study in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. They selected two *panchayat samities* of Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh on the basis maximum number of women beneficiaries enrolled in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. For this Random sampling method was used to select 25 women from each village constituting the total sample of 100 rural women for the present study and for the collection of data personal interview technique was used. The major findings of the study shows that personal and family were the major constraints. Some other constraints like delay in issuing a job card, wages not provided according to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, huge delay in work payment lack of safe drinking

water no extra facility for women etc were also categorised as Operational and Worksite Constraints which are also faced by the women. They suggested that to achieve the goal of programme, government must plan some policy which will be helpful for proper implementation of programme and it will also help in reducing the constraints faced by the beneficiaries of the programme.

Bishnoi *et.al.*, (2012) in their work has tried to analyze the performance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in terms of Awareness and accessibility of Employment generation under MNREGA, Bank accessibility of MNREGA beneficiaries, Process of Wage payment in MNREGA, Extent of satisfaction of respondents about MNREGA, Constraints faced by the MNREGA beneficiaries in wage collection. For which they conducted the study in Khota Mahawa village of Babhani Block of Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh. For this, hundred MNREGA beneficiaries both male and female were selected and information was collected with the help of structured Interview schedule. It was found that respondents were well aware of the procedure of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act such as registration, having job cards, 100 days employment in a year, process of opening bank accounts, accessing bank, receiving payment from bank and about the process of wage payment in MNREGA .The main problem faced by the beneficiaries was delay in wage payment, and accessing bank account. They concluded that Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act can be an important step towards poverty alleviation by giving employment to rural people.

Spears (2012) in his study has discussed on the Ending widespread open defecation and pursuing feasible methods of safe excreta disposal must be top policy priorities for India. This paper draws policy lessons from the first ten years of latrine construction under India's Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a flagship program of the Indian government. So far, the TSC has been able to improve average health and human capital among Indian children where it has been implemented, but sanitation coverage remains substantially incomplete. Indeed, the first ten years of the TSC will have, on average, prevented an infant death for a few thousand dollars, a comparatively very inexpensive average cost. This initial success is in part due to the Clean Village Prize or Nirmal Gram Puraskar (NGP), an incentive for village governments. Heterogeneity in the intensity and effectiveness of TSC implementation suggests that the additional benefits of extending effective TSC implementation to the many remaining Indian children would probably substantially exceed the additional costs. Therefore, as the TSC becomes the Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, India should not miss the opportunity to invest in successful principles of total sanitation: quality data, effective monitoring, and motivational *ex post* incentives.

Ramachandram (2013) the paper examines the policy priorities of democratic governments regarding provision of public goods especially healthcare. In the context of increasing budget allocation towards health through the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) by the central government, this paper studies the trends in public expenditure on health and rural development by state governments in India. When there is widespread poverty and imperfect information

among voters, rational governments will choose to spend more of their resources on rural development schemes providing goods that are perceived to be of more political value. In such a setting, healthcare often gets deprioritised. Hence the increasing funds from the central government of India will only give state governments perverse incentives to not raise their contribution towards healthcare to the required level.

Ramakrishna (2013) has said that India is a land of villages and the Government of India has been implementing numerous rural development programmes for the upliftment of rural Communities. Non-government organizations with their advantage of non- rigid, locality specific, felt need based, beneficiary oriented and committed nature of service have established multitude of roles which can effect rural development. A number of NGOs have been playing a vital role in rural community development, besides government interventions. Realizing that the government alone was not able to meet the challenges of the massive enormous tasks in the process of rural development, the non-profit, voluntary and non-governmental organizations had to be involved in different phases and activities at the global, regional and local levels. Thus, in later phases, both the GOs and NGOs have been actively involved in transforming the lives of the rural poor. No doubt, NGOs have been constantly working day-in and day-out to solve various problems concerning children, women, senior citizens, environment etc.

Ganiee (2014) has mentioned that the Rural development generally

refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic welfare of people living in relatively isolated and sparsely populated areas. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is considered as a “Silver Bullet” for eradicating rural poverty and unemployment, by way of generating demand for productive labour force in villages. It provides an alternative source of livelihood which will have an impact on reducing migration, restricting child labour, alleviating poverty, and making villages self-sustaining through productive assets creation such as road construction, cleaning up of water tanks, soil and water conservation work, etc.

Jeur (2014) in his study said that NRLM is the largest comprehensive and ground-breaking poverty reduction programme in the world introduced and implemented by the Central Government of India in June, 2011 for giving light colored opportunity to poor for inclusion in the main stream of the socio-economic development process of the country. NRLM's mandate is to reach out to all the poor families, link them to sustainable livelihoods opportunities and nurture them till they come out of poverty and enjoy a decent quality of life. It works on three pillars such as: 1. Enhancing and expanding existing livelihoods options of the poor; 2. Building skills for the job market outside; and 3. Nurturing self-employed and entrepreneurs (for microenterprises). The real success of this mission is extremely depended on positive approach, proper coordination, professional competency and social accountability of the supportive structures at the National, State, District and Sub-district levels.

OBJECTIVES

- To analyze the performance of various rural development schemes which are being run in Bundi district of Rajasthan.
- To examine the impact of these schemes on the rural upliftment in Bundi district.
- To assess the deficiencies and the constraints experienced by the beneficiaries under these schemes.
- To make suggestions for strengthening the implementation strategy of these rural development schemes in Bundi district.

HYPOTHESES

- No vital effect of various rural development schemes is visible in the growth of Bundi district.
- Benefits of various rural development schemes have not percolated to the lowest strata in Bundi district.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study is an analytical study through which an attempt will be made to study the impact of various rural development schemes, on the basis of different parameters, on the rural people in Bundi District of Rajasthan. In order to target the set objectives, both primary and secondary data will be used. The primary data will be collected through well designed questionnaires. Besides questionnaires, personnel interview method shall also be used for collecting the desired information. The secondary data will be collected from the published reports, magazines etc, and from various official sources.

The proposed study will be organized in the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Rural development schemes in Bundi district – an analysis.
3. Impact of rural development schemes in Bundi district.
4. Data analysis & result interpretation
5. Suggestions & Conclusion

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